

THE BELL RINGER



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MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY

APRIL 19, 1990

MBA students join environmental talks in Russia

by Shade Murray
staff reporter

On Thursday, March 15, a group of MBA students, led by the intrepid Mr. David Mikell, set off for the Soviet Union. Their purpose was to tour Leningrad, Moscow, and also Rostov-on-Don, where they would join Soviet students for three days of environmental talks. Mr. Dan Herring was also supposed to lead the excursion, but he fell victim to illness a few days before the trip and was forced to remain in NashVegas.

The group, consisting of Ford Simpkins, Morgan Parker, Sam Bartholomew, Shade Murray, Jackson Gouletas Wray, Mark Bittles, Frank Bass, Jeffrey Buntin, David Mason, and De Thompson, joined with students from Harpeth Hall, USN, Hillsboro, and Chicago's Lake Forest Academy.

After a series of long and tiring plane trips, the group arrived in Leningrad. Everyone was very excited, including Morgan Parker, who was already jumping for Joy. The accommodations made the Holiday Inn look like the Ritz-Carlton, but it was a relief to know that if a crisis

arose, one could just yell for help into one of the many sprinkler heads which doubled as microphones for the ever-present KGB.

During the three day stay in Leningrad, the group toured St. Isaac's Cathedral, Peter-Paul Fortress, and the Hermitage Museum, among many other sites. Also in Leningrad, they were able to adjust to the culture shock.

In Russia, there is no real aspect of Western society which one can come to grips with. Everyone and everything seems to be just one number in a huge filing system. Even though *perestroika* has brought some freedom of expression to the Soviets (a few religious and small political demonstrations were seen), there is still an overwhelming feeling of conformity.

<Note: One evening, about 3:30 A.M., someone reported spotting freshman Ford Simpkins walking along the river with a Soviet woman, age around 35. Ford, not denying the incident, said they were only "swapping Tic-tacs" (?)>

Next, the group boarded the state-of-the-art Aeroflot

airline for a trip of luxury to Rostov-on-Don. Rostov-on-Don is about the same size as Nashville, and here, the students met with their Soviet counterparts for a week. The Soviet teens were very anxious to find out all about America and the society we live in. In the city, the Americans, lead by USN's Valerie Elman, established baseball hats as a new currency for buying all kinds of Soviet military items.

The Soviets performed many songs, dances, and sketches for the opening ceremonies of the environmental talks conducted by the two countries. But, the Americans, refusing to be upstaged, sang a stirring rendition of "Rocky Top" for the grand finale of the ceremony.

The groups "let sparks fly," as Ford Simpkins suggested, and discussed for three days the problems of recycling, landfills, deforestation, drift-netting, air and water pollution, and Antarctica. Clearly the best solution for the disposal of pollutants had to have been made by MBA's own David Mason, who concluded that we should launch all the world's

pollutants on a course straight to the Sun, nature's greatest incinerator in the sky.

Finally, the group went to Moscow, the capital of the Soviet Union. There, they

visited Red Square, the Kremlin, Armoury Palace, and the Moscow Circus. Everyone was glad to return home in the end, but not one person will ever forget the experience.

Patrick Wilson Library
Montgomery Bell Academy
Nashville, Tennessee



Top: The Hermitage, Leningrad.

Bottom: Soviets waiting over four hours to enter the Moscow McDonald's. (photos by Shade Murray)



MBA and HH Juniors visit colleges

by George Rietz
staff reporter

On March 18, a sleepy group of MBA and Harpeth Hall students boarded two buses to visit colleges. The trip was intended to cover a wide range of nearby (??) schools, both public and private, large and small. In fact, our 5 day itinerary included thirteen schools, long bus rides, and gobs of yummy college food.

We began with The University of the South at Seawane, a beautiful collection of stone buildings on a 10,000 acre mountaintop campus. We were greeted with fantastic coffee cake, a college video, and a brief campus

tour, and Keith "Seawane-man" McCarty instantly declared it his school of choice.

After lunch at the Varsity in Atlanta, we visited Emory, a larger school which wowed us with a huge new sports complex, six libraries, and the now-legendary DUC. After two speakers and a thorough tour, we boarded the buses for a ride to Greenville, South Carolina.

The next morning, those of us who slept awoke to a continental breakfast and Furman University, whose wooded campus is home to a lake and an 18 hole golf course. Lunch found us in the cafeteria at Wofford College,

which takes top honors for the greenest grass on the trip. After a tree on campus snared a football and Anthony Albrect's shoe, we squeezed ourselves into one bus for the trip to Davidson.

Upon our arrival, we learned about Davidson's specialized liberal arts undergraduate curriculum, saw the now-expected multi-million dollar sports complex, and ate dinner in their cafeteria.

The next morning we toured Wake Forest University, a school of 3500 undergraduates, which seemed bigger than it actually was. Two admissions staffers spoke about Wake Forest's exten-

sive foreign study program, showed us their fine arts building, and answered questions.

After a short bus ride, we arrived at Duke, where an awed silence fell upon our group and some of us discussed our chances of getting in. As we crowded into a room trimmed in school colors, an admissions director explained Duke's design-your-own course system and emphasized the quality of the university's teaching. As we toured the campus, a student alluded to Duke's basketball team (needlessly), the university hospital and research facilities, and the daily campus

newspaper.

After a quick lunch and a mad dash for the bookstore, we left for UNC, where we discovered the best of what a big college could offer. The school has over 300 campus organizations, 23 fraternities, 17 libraries, and its own daily newspaper.

The next day we visited the University of Richmond, which is divided into two campuses on the basis of sex, and UVA. The trip ended with the stops of Washington and Lee and Virginia Military Institute, and one last endless bus ride into Nashville, where we arrived a little after midnight Friday morning.

OPINION

Harpeth Hall student's accusations unfounded

a reply to Miss Carol Anne Trout

by Dan Brooks
with Tate McDaniel

writers

Montgomery Bell Academy has recently been accosted with slanderous accusations by Carol Anne Trout, a student of Harpeth Hall, in her article "Mama's Boys sit while Honeybears serve" in the February edition of her school newspaper, *Logos II*. These claims have caused a great disturbance on the MBA campus. The upperclassmen have been particularly upset because we have much pride in our school and do not like to see it berated without substantial evidence. I would like to point out the multiple false accusations in her attempt at journalism.

First, Miss Trout points out that the administration of Harpeth Hall offered to start a cheerleading squad for the seventh, eighth, and ninth grade sports teams of MBA. She then argues that the administration of MBA did not pay for the uniforms or organize support for these squads. Miss Trout goes on to say that Harpeth Hall spent more than 1,000 dollars for the uniforms sporting the MBA logo. We

offer our greatest thanks for these efforts and support. However, I would like to respond to her words of anger by pointing out that the Harpeth Hall administration "offered" these efforts; they were not recruited by MBA. Yes, we are very grateful for the time and effort of the Harpeth Hall students and administration, but if students at Harpeth Hall see it as absolutely necessary to bicker and complain about the situation as being "unfair" and then make slanderous accusations about our school, they are welcome to place their time and effort elsewhere.

Second, Miss Trout points out that Harpeth Hall has six annual social events compared to MBA's two. The majority of MBA students feel that two school-sponsored social events are enough, since the MBA students' social activities extend far beyond those provided by the school. Furthermore, students of MBA do not see Harpeth Hall as their only social outlet, and I'm sure that if Miss Trout interviewed members of various classes at

her school that she would find that Harpeth Hall students feel the same way about us. The average MBA student feels that a plethora of these "joint" social events is not necessary since he has female friends and companions from a wide variety of schools and of vast social backgrounds. I am claiming not that I or other students of MBA do not enjoy the company of Harpeth Hall students, but only that there are many other people with whom we wish to associate. I am sure that some of Miss Trout's classmates feel the same way about MBA.

One of the weakest arguments in Miss Trout's attempt at subjective journalism concerns the issue of the invitations given to the Freshmen students of Harpeth Hall asking for their assistance with MBA's Spaghetti Supper. She said herself that these were "exclusive invitations" to serve at the event. The key word here is "invitation." I would like to make it clear that an invitation is an optional request, not the demand which Miss Trout seems to interpret it. Serving

at the MBA Spaghetti Supper is a tradition, and many young girls see it as a privilege, not a chore. I was recently speaking with some friends of mine at Harpeth Hall and they recollected the good time they had at the supper and how honored they felt to be asked to such an event. If Miss Trout or any other student does not wish to serve, she does not have to. In fact, she would be a welcomed guest at the supper.

Miss Trout also asks for a joint community activity such as the soup kitchen. The students of Montgomery Bell Academy already fund and organize a successful soup kitchen program. I believe that Harpeth Hall also has a similar program. It is not absolutely necessary to have a joint venture of this type. Yes, it may be nice to work with students of Harpeth Hall on a project such as the soup kitchen; we see this as our own project, however, and take pride in that fact. A new joint community effort would reflect well on both schools and we are open to any suggestions.

Miss Trout has accused MBA of taking advantage of Harpeth Hall's leadership in joint efforts between HH and MBA. We do not see any instances of this so-called taking advantage. Miss Trout has made a pitiful attempt at berating MBA, having no true backing behind her arguments.

MBA students are used to such shallow and opinionated views of their establishment but refuse to listen to such slanderous bantering like that of Miss Trout. We do recognize that Harpeth Hall is a fine school, and Miss Trout does not necessarily speak for the entire Harpeth Hall student body and administration. We do ask for some type of apology from Miss Trout and we are sure that Harpeth Hall is angry with her for setting such a poor example of her school.

The students of Montgomery Bell Academy take these unsubstantiated accusations as direct insults upon their fine school and will not tolerate any further slander of this sort.

THE BELL RINGER

For the student currently recovering from an in-class theme.

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The following is a list of students who have contributed to The Bell Ringer this year but who have not made the three credits required to become a staff member:

2 1/2 credits: John Koon, Rob Lentz, and Ryan Tyrrell.

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If you feel you should have more credits than noted above, please contact Andrew Duthie. Note: It is not too late to become a staff member; there will be one more issue of The Bell Ringer, to be released before Commencement.

THE GRAIL PAGE

Mama's Boys Players put on *The Holy Grail*

by Rob Lentz

reporter

On Friday night, March 31, 1990, MBA students, parents, and friends were introduced to the Knights of the Round Table, Tim the Enchanter, the Knights of Ni, and a host of odd characters included in a stage production of Monty Python's *The Holy Grail*.

This lavish spectacle was executed by the newly ordained Mama's Boys Players: Kevin Kruse, Hal Jones, David Haslam, Simon Westlake, Andrew Duthie, Chris Wayburn, Rob Howell, Jim Haynes, Brandon Barrett, and Cary Brothers. Harpeth Hall's Julia Sutherland directed with assistant director Brent Sharp, stage manager Amanda Haslam, and lighting coordinator Kelly May.

The story follows the adventures of Arthur, King of the Britons, and the Knights of the Round Table, who are enlisted by the Heavenly Father Himself to undertake a sacred quest: to find the Holy Grail. In their search, Arthur and his knights encounter obscene livestock-hurling Frenchmen, the Knights Who Say "Ni," a man-eating rabbit, and countless bizarre, baffling, and otherwise hilarious situations.

The story itself is based upon the original script of Monty Python and the Holy Grail, the cult classic film of the early 1970's which was the outrageous brainchild of

Michael Palin, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Terry Gilliam, and the late Graham Chapman, to whom this production was dedicated. The Mama's Boys' adaptation of the original story proved to be a cleverly executed, highly entertaining (albeit bizarre)

create that authentic tenth-century European look. I remark with particular emphasis upon the ingenious garb of Tim the Enchanter (Chris Wayburn), and the skillfully contrived appearance of the Three-headed Knight.

Amy Asbury, and Kara Emerson, led by Katherine Bomboy as Zoot/Dingo) deserve praise for their seductive performances as sultry temptresses to the sexually repressed Sir Galahad the Chaste (David Haslam, in an impassioned, convincing role).

The most moving performances, however, were the work of master thespian Kevin Kruse, whose unflagging energy and vocalization captivated and electrified all spectators, particularly in his stunning role as the power-mad, land-lusting, and highly emotional Swamp King (father of Prince Herbert), who shook the stage with his passionate rantings and ravings.

The inspired performances of every actor, each of whom played several roles, contributed to an overall feeling of tangible energy, a remarkable chemistry that made obvious the fact that these young men and women had spent at least a week (or so) in rehearsal.

The audience reaction to *The Holy Grail* reflected a genuine appreciation for the

gar content of the brash comedy.

The students seem to have regarded the play with genuine enthusiasm and enjoyment, as precisely the sort of high quality intellectual stimulus required by individuals at such a station in life. For myself, I laughed, I smiled, I laughed some more. Two hearty thumbs up. It was better than *Cats*. I'm going to see it again and again.

The most striking aspect of the Mama's Boys' *The Holy Grail* was its innovative approach to—well, just about everything. It was not afraid to break the rules; rather, it seemed to show a singular determination to do just that, and to do it in such a blatant manner as to be hysterical. These talented performers have not yet allowed themselves to be bound by theatrical conventions, and their creative, innovative approach to drama will hopefully serve as the foundation and trendsetter for similar productions in the years to come.

The Mama's Boys Players' most significant accomplishment was their raising



Sir Galahad (David Haslam) protects King Arthur and Sir Bedevere (Hal Jones and Simon Westlake) from Tim the Enchanter (Chris Wayburn), as Sir Robin hides behind the brave Sir Launcelot (Jim Haynes behind Cary Brothers).

stage piece that, if nothing else, capture the true spirit of Monty Python's unique brand of humor.

The hard work and long hours invested in bringing this hilarity to the stage was immediately evident, and paid off quite well. The set design was modest and unobtrusive, yet made the most effective use of the meager Wallace Hall stage. Similarly, dramatic lighting was most cleverly employed to lend appropriate mood and atmosphere.

As for the performers themselves, the Mama's Boys Players have certainly carved out a place for themselves in the noble annals of drama. Just what kind of a place that is, of course, I really don't know.

Nevertheless, this production was highlighted by several stunning performances. David Haslam contributed exceptional emotion to his haunting portrayal of the frustrated, tormented, and effeminate Prince Herbert, whose anguished attempts to sing his own song tugged at the very heartstrings of the audience.

As the obscene French Knight, Chris Wayburn transformed vile, contumely and humorously vulgar exclamation into an art form; and Wayburn brought to the stage a remarkable performance as the dark, menacing, and fire-summoning enchanted Tim (by the way, the Tim scene was highlighted by a startling display of pyrotechnic special effects for which Simon Westlake must be commended).

In addition, the young ladies who portrayed the buxom young maidens of the Castle Anthrax (Harpeth Hall's Christy Stallings, Anne Prosser, Holley Philips,



Brother Maynard requests that Another Monk (Kevin Kruse and Andrew Duthie) read from the Book of Armaments so that King Arthur (Hal Jones) might know how to use the Holy Hand-Grenade of Antioch. Sir Launcelot, Sir Robin, Sir Galahad, and Sir Bedevere (Brothers, Haynes, Haslam, and Westlake (obscured by Haslam)) listen with interest.

extreme talent and efforts of the players, if not appreciation for (or comprehension of) the uniquely twisted humor that these performers so effectively executed. Indeed, many an entertained yet puzzled parent was noticed following the piece, while the attending members of the faculty seemed fairly undisturbed by the highly suggestive and good-naturedly vul-

\$1700 through ticket sales, money that will go toward helping the homeless through Matthew:25. I congratulate the successful efforts of the Mama's Boys in their execution of a magnificent *piece de resistance*, and wish them the very best in all future endeavors, as they are now available for birthdays, weddings, and bar mitzvahs.



King Arthur and his horse, Patsy (Hal Jones and Andrew Duthie), come across the oppressed Dennis and a peasant woman (Kevin Kruse and Jim Haynes).

(photos by Derraj Bassi)

the British comedy troupe Monty Python, whose distinguished and demented members include John Cleese,

Most striking of all, however, were the costumes of each character, every one meticulously handcrafted to

FEATURES

George Bush: An environmentalist? (NOT)

by John Koon

writer

As the U.S. Congress dukes it out this spring, carving a revised Clean Air Bill in the process, many people are addressing President Bush's environmental politics. One may recall that during the 1988 presidential campaign Bush ragged on Dukakis' environmental foibles and declared that he wanted to be remembered as the environmental president. But, after over fifteen months in office, he has yet to make a major environmental move. Once in office, Bush conceded that there would be no major shift of resources to wilderness.

This not to say that Bush is ignoring environmental issues. Last December, he designated over 700,000 acres in Nevada as wilderness under the Wilderness Protection Act. Last July, he surprised everyone by proposing new revisions to the Clean Air Act, which alone is more than Reagan did during his eight years in office. But the proposals that he suggested, when scrutinized more closely, are not radical or even liberal. The new amendments proposed by the Bush administration would relax auto emissions standards, weaken sanctions for not meeting clean-air standards, and strip national parks of their protection of clean air from nearby industries. Bush

also opposes a Congressional provision that fuel-consumption standards be raised to 40 mpg.

But what concerns environmentalists is not what Bush has done, rather what he hasn't done. When the Exxon Valdez spilled 262,000 barrels of oil over the pristine Alaskan coastline, Bush downplayed its effects, saying, "The early indications are that, well, nature is pretty powerful," and then stressing the need to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Likewise, Bush refuses to take steps to curtail global warming, citing scientific uncertainty and, in effect, saying that "it wouldn't be prudent, too early to tell." Even his own administration is wasteful, trashing 300,000 tons of paper annually, which, if recycled, could save 4,700,000 trees.

Why is it so important that Bush and the U.S. lead the world in conservation? The reasons are many. The U.S. is the most wasteful nation on the planet: the 5% of the world's population living here uses 26% of the world's oil and produces 25% of all greenhouse gases. Also, the U.S. has a unique role of being, as Ronald Reagan stated, a "city on the hill," a country that everyone looks up to. Other countries have little incentive to conserve when they see those wasteful

Americans doing nothing.

The Bush administration has been good about frustrating other countries about conservation. For instance, after exaggerating an environmental summit conference, Bush, at such a conference in the Netherlands last November, blocked efforts to stabilize carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2000, a proposal supported by 65% of the 68 nations attending.

In the past, the U.S. has done enormous good in heading worldwide efforts like the 1987 Montreal Protocol banning the release of ozone-damaging gases. There are many things Bush can do to lead such an effort to heal the planet. A small but important first step would be to halt deforestation of the ancient forests in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. Right now, the government spends a phenomenal \$40 million making logging roads (and Bush wants to increase those expenses 61%). No wonder the Brazilians laugh at us when we tell them to stop cutting the rainforests.

Another step for the U.S. would be to step up technical assistance to third world nations. Senator Albert Gore suggests that assistance be focused on "leap-frogging" technologies, like low-emission power plants, that would enable nations to better their people's lives without caus-

ing immense pollution.

Domestically, gas conservation could be accomplished by raising gasoline taxes and using the added revenues to fight pollution. Economic incentives are essential as well: currently, consumers pay extra to get pollution control devices in their cars; this payment is the opposite of how it should be.

All in all, George Bush is not all that big a foe to conservation—Ronald Reagan thought trees caused pollution—but on the other hand, he is nowhere near the ranks of Teddy Roosevelt, Lyndon

Johnson, and Jimmy Carter (no kidding—he doubled the size of our national park system and protected scores of rivers and lands with wilderness status).

In this pivotal period for the earth and its survival, the U.S. needs a president who is not afraid to take the first step and disregard the public eye. President Bush needs to cut the rhetoric and offer some major proposals to heal the earth. The earth does not need a kinder, gentler president who is concerned more about his image than the environment.



Students and faculty venture to Spain over Spring Break

by John Teeter

staff writer

This adventure is Spring Break 1990, the only "real" break from a tortuous school year when everyone from lowly junior schoolers to almighty seniors can break free from the drudgery of homework, papers, and tests and lie on some beautiful tropical beach.

There are, however, an elite few who shunned hours of the sun for a little fun and culture in Spain. This group of hardy adventures, including Dr. Springer, Mr. Womack, Dr. Gaffney, Dr. and Mrs. Patterson, and 17 students from MBA and Harpeth

Hall was totally unaware of how gruelling this "vacation" would be.

The group left Nashville on a Friday, bound for New York, then to Madrid. With no sleep on the flight over and a seven-hour time difference, the group was fully prepared to raise a little hell but was too tired to do it. The first day was spent lounging at the Prado Museum, which houses many works by Rubens, Goya, Bosch, and Raphael. The following day, a tour of Madrid lead the group back to the Prado, to the famous Plaza Mayor, and to the Puerta del Sol. During the next two days in Madrid, the group made

daily trips to Toledo, Aranjuez, El Escorial, the Valley of the Fallen, and the Roman aqueducts in Segovia.

The last three days of the trip were spent in Barcelona where we saw the famous boulevard, the Ramblas, and the impressive Gothic Quarter. Our last day in Spain was spent in Monserrat, a place of incredible beauty and danger, for it seems that rocks fly out of nowhere and strike harmless tourists on the head.

Finally, the trip was over; and though we did our share of rabble-rousing, the culture and the history of Spain will last in our memories for years to come.



Mauro Mastrapasqua buys a bull fight program from Pepé the balding toreador wanna-be in Madrid, Spain. He was successful, but was later dismayed to find that the program was written entirely in Spanish.

(photo by John Teeter)

ENTERTAINMENT

Depeche Mode

Violator

by Eric Greenwood
staff writer

Back in 1980, a band called Composition of Sound needed a lead singer. The band, then consisting of Martin Gore, Andrew Fletcher, and Vince Clarke, found vocalist David Gahan at a jam session just outside of London.

They quickly changed their name to Depeche Mode, taken from a French magazine, and keyboardist Clarke began experimenting with synthetic and electronic beats and sounds. The band decided to drop their guitars and become an all-electronic band. The first Depeche Mode album, *SPEAK and SPELL*, is a brilliant display of Clarke's inventive electronic technique.

The following year, Clarke decided to leave the band due to conflicting musical interests and to pursue solo projects, most notably Yazoo (Yazz in America) and Erasure. This departure left room for Gore's introspective lyrics and a darker, more down-beat style for the band.

That same year, 1982,

Depeche Mode released their second album, *A Broken Frame*, with only three members. They added a new member in '83, Alan Wilder, and released their third album, titled *Construction Time Again*.

Already having a large following in Europe, success in the States was a bit slower. *Some Great Reward* was released in 1984, gaining new fans in the U.S., but it wasn't until the next year with releases of *People Are People* and *Catching Up with Depeche Mode* did the band break in America.

The following year marked the release of *Black Celebration*, an album ranked in the top ten of all time by *SPIN Magazine*.

1987's *Music for the Masses* reaffirmed the band's ability to make innovative albums. The tour in support of that album was the band's largest to date, ending with a climactic performance in the Pasadena Rose Bowl. The band played to a sell-out crowd of 70,000 fans from all over the country.

In the spring of 1989 DM released *Depeche Mode 101*,

a live concert double CD and a film documenting the band's 1987-88 tour.

After the tour the band took some time off, allowing keyboardist/songwriter Gore to put out a solo album containing strictly covers of other songs, fittingly titled *Counterfeit*.

This past summer the band began writing for the next album. The first single, "Personal Jesus," released in October, showed that the band is going back to basics reminding listeners of early DM classics like "Everything Counts" and "Get the Balance Right."

This year on March 20, Depeche Mode's tenth album, *Violator*, was released. This album, after one listen, is obviously the band's best effort.

Combining their infamous electronic style with modern technology, the album marks the band's growth musically over the past ten years.

"World in My Eyes" kicks off the album with Gore's confessional lyrics and complex grooves. The two songs sung by Gore, "Sweetest Perfection" and "Blue Dress," exemplify his ability to change the mood of the album with his very personal lyrics and soothing voice.

Other bright spots on the album include "Enjoy the Silence" and "Policy of Truth." The final song, "Clean," portrays a person trying to stay sober but being confused by feelings of insecurity and guilt.

On their last world tour, DM came to Starwood in Nashville, and hopefully this summer, when they hit the road again, they will come back.

Hallucinations



Local Music:

Dessau

Jet Black Factory

The Grinning Plowmen

by Jim Haynes
Entertainment Editor

While Nashville is best known for its country and, to some extent, its gospel music, the rock industry has been pretty lame. It has only been recently that good rock bands have emerged in the underground. Unfortunately, many have adopted typical southern styles of the commercial cuteness of the B-52's or the approachability of REM or Guadalcanal Diary.

The creation of 91 WRVU and the success of the Elliston music scene brought underground bands like The Royal Court of China and The Shakers to some success. Following similar avenues, Jet Black Factory, Dessau, and The Grinning Plowman are among the new upcoming local bands that have recently released albums.

Dessau released *Exercise in Tension* last summer, dropping an assault of electronics in favor of a more traditional use of guitars and basses. Even with this change in styles, Dessau maintains a love for samples, galloping beats, and angst ridden vocals. The album as a whole has dark industrial overtones, being partly produced by Ministry's Alain Jourgenson. A new album is expected by summer.

Jet Black Factory, in recording *House Blessing*, added a new bass player and a second guitarist. Vocalist Dave Willie is the charismatic force of the band. His insightful and rich vocals, often compared with those of Jim Morrison, draw the listener into every song. Even without Willie, the music can carry the album, from the beautiful acoustic melodies of "Look Away" to the solid songs similar to those of the Replacements with "Vinegar Works" and "Blood Simple." The CD of *House Blessing* contains their first EP, *Duality*, a somber collection of songs.

The Grinning Plowman is one of Nashville's most unique and creative bands ever. *I Play Jupiter* is hard to categorize as it defies all stereotypes. They play with heavy dark basses, a tribal use of percussion, sparse keyboards, and eccentric vocals. Whatever music it is, The Grinning Plowman is redefining the music of Nashville.

To find out more about these bands and other local bands, The Local Show on 91 WRVU on Thursdays from 7-9 pm provides much information of new releases, new music, and concerts. Any of these bands would surely relieve the boredom of Nashville.

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(GREEN HILLS)

ENTERTAINMENT

Heavy Metal

by John Butler
and Greg Parker

writers

To some, heavy metal music conjures stereotypical head-bangers and slam-dancing. To elite others, it summons images of flying fingers on a guitar neck, tramps in leather, and dead goats.

In this column we will discuss not only heavy metal concerts, but also new albums and interviews with guitar wizards.

In this edition, we will outline the heavy metal concerts coming to Nashville this summer, and give some interesting facts on the metal world, such as Bill Sastry's cover for Slayer.

At this point, the concerts which are slated to come are Kiss with Whitesnake, Aerosmith with Joan Jett, and Motley Crue with an unannounced opening act. One other show rumored to be coming is the Rush-Mr. Big concert.

For a minute, we will discuss previous metal concerts that most of you missed out on. For example, Whitesnake came with Kix around a month ago, where James, Bryce, Greg and I dressed down from our usual MBA attire and proceeded to the concert. During the wait in the line, I had a spiritually moving experience from the Gos-Pill I received from a Moonie.

For the true metal-head, the concert of choice was Metallica, who came

in August. This concert was where we saw some of the most interesting people of our lives. Since Greg and I had fourth row seats, we saw all of the action first-hand. When I was not dodging sweaty slam-dancers, I was admiring the stage set-up, particularly the symbolic statue of Lady Justice wearing a blindfold and holding scales tipped with money. During the heated performance of the smash single "One," the group made a statement against the capitalist swine that plague our political system by demolishing the parody of Lady Justice.

The latest on new albums is *First* from Guns 'n' Roses, on which Axl displays his piano virtuosity on a song called "November Rain." Steve Vai has a solo album due out in mid-April entitled *Passion and Warfare*. Taking over his vacant spot in the David Lee Roth band is guitar guru Jason Becker.

One band to be on the look-out for is Skid Row, who are now touring the U.S. Another band to watch is King's X, who have a cross-breed of new wave and metal, dubbed by some "The Music of the 90's." Until next time, Greg and John.

"I can't remember anything,
can't tell if this is true or a
dream
deep down inside I feel the
scream, this terrible silence
stops me."

—James Hetfield—



Hallucinations.
Only in *The Bell Ringer*.
(Good thing...)
(see page five)

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SPORTS

Varsity Track team doing well this season

by Casey Jones

staff reporter

The 1990 edition of the MBA track team continued to improve through its strong performances in district matchups. The MBA squad, coming off a greatly needed spring break, set its sights on the Bobcats of Overton in the first district meet of the season. Although they were underdogs, the team knew that it had a definite chance of eclipsing the ten year old winning streak of the Bobcats in dual meet competition, for the Big Red felt confident about its depth in most events.

MBA was lead by outstanding performances by both the sprinters and distance types. Alden Smith recorded a first place finish in the 400 meters and a second in the 200 meter race while an-

choring the second place 4 X 100 team comprised of Keith McCarty, Cabot Hyde, Shad Weaver, and Alden Smith. Alex Waddey also propelled the Big Red with a third place finish in the 100 meters and 110 meter high hurdles. The 4 X 200 team of McCarty, Hyde, Jarrett Bell, and Brian Norment brought home a second place finish.

Likewise, the MBA distance crew provided strength for the squad. Lead by Keith Ikard who finished first in the mile and two mile runs, the other distance crew members kept MBA close throughout the meet. Roy Alley ran another personal best in the mile with Justin Crosslin close behind. George Rietz provided strong support with his third place finish in the two mile run.

Although many fine performances were displayed in the meet, the Big Red could not come up with the win falling by thirty points.

With a week off, the Big Red squad began to prepare for the annual MBA-Hillsboro match-up at Harpeth Hall's track of all tracks.

In this meet, the team easily defeated a less than formidable Hillsboro squad 105-31. The Big Red was paced by strong performances by Alex Waddey in the 110 high and 300 intermediate hurdles, Alden Smith in the 100 meter and 400 meter races, John Dunkerly in the 110 high and 300 intermediate hurdles. In addition, the sprint relays composed in various combinations of Keith McCarty, Cabot Hyde, Brian Norment, Eric

Crawford, Jarratt Bell, John Dunkerly, and managed to capture the 4 x 100, 4 x 200, and the 4 x 400 meter relay events.

Likewise, MBA was well represented in the distances. Keith Ikard finished second in the 1600 and first in the 3200 while Roy Alley placed second in the 800 with a personal best of 2:11.

George Rietz again provided solid support with a third place in the 3200 meter run. In addition, the 4 x 800 team of Dan James, Rob Lance, Ray Brooks, and Justin Crosslin captured a victory. Perhaps the highlight of the meet, however, was the first place finish of Brian Norment who jumped over 21 feet in the long jump.

Below: Ray Brooks holds a large lead over Hillsboro on the second leg of the 4-by-800m run.

Below left: Alden Smith and Keith McCarty struggle for inches against Hillsboro in the 100-meter dash.

(photos by Andrew Duthie)



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Freshman Track

by Andrew Vahrenkamp

staff reporter

Yes, there is more than one track team at MBA. Often overlooked because of the greatness of the varsity are the freshman, those ever-strong ninth-graders who, under Coach Bill Compton, are seeking a third consecutive city championship.

The fearsome Frosh started their attack for the title by mauling Hillwood on March 15 in a practice meet 95-22 with great performances by Hayes Fowler, Hal Pickel, Jason Barton, Austin Koon, and Mark Fuqua. Un-

fortunately, this romp did not count; so, the Frosh went back to work. On March 29, they travelled to Overton. Even though the Varsity fell to the Bobcats, the Freshman again wiped out the adversary, this time 78-41. Fowler, Pickel, Andy Ward, and John Crosslin led the Big Red in the carnage.

With excellent athletes in every event, the Freshman look to continue their winning ways and claim the championship. So let us follow them as they seek to "three-peat" as city champs.

SPORTS

Varsity Soccer season well underway

(includes short
Soccer promotion)

by David Lott

Copy Editor

The 1990 soccer season is finally underway, and the team is optimistic for a good season.

Just before the season opened, the team played three scrimmages the week before spring break. Ready to start hit the field, MBA made an impressive showing against soccer giant Franklin in a 2-2 draw. Next, the Red squad defeated McGavock 2-0 and Gallatin 2-1 in intense matches.

As the season officially began, MBA went on spring break, and to finish off the vacation, the team travelled to Memphis for its first three games of the season. At first, the break appeared not to have hurt the team much as it effectively beat Millington 3-0. (This game included an exclusive comedy show by their right striker, #23, who requested to be taken out of the game because he could not deal with his teammates' criticisms of his play. The coach finally directed him behind the stands, and he was never seen again.)

The week-long break began to show in the next game against Bartlett. Despite a frustrating game marked by poor passing and shooting, however, the team managed to win the match 2-1. Pat Harkleroad sarcastically pointed out the great feeling it gave him to play like poo-poo and still win.

Pat could not make the same complaint the next day, as the Big Red was soundly defeated by a strong MSU team 4-0.

As a result of the generally unpleasing play by the team, the highlight of the trip was watching Father Ryan fall to Christian Brothers in a great battle.

After returning to school, the team had not yet fully recovered from spring break, despite the player initiated morning practices. And although the play continued to be lacking, the team managed somewhat lucky second half comebacks to tie both BGA and McGavock.

However, a spirited match against Hillwood brought out more of the true soccer player in each team

member, and yielded a magnificent 1-0 victory. The double-team put on Lopez by Drew Heitzler and John Koon proved very effective, but it was the aesthetically pleasing shot by Justin Maestas with two minutes left in the game that got the fans really riled.

SOCCER PROMO

Soccer, better known as football, is the number one favorite of sports fans world wide. The U.S. is somewhat strange, however, in that the other football continues to dominate. This year, though, the U.S. is hosting the World Cup, and our team is in the tournament.

Could it be that a revolution is taking place? Why yes! Soccer fever is sweeping the nation, and you want to be part of it! It is better than *Cats*. You're going to see it again and again....

C o m e
watch the Big
Red play Ryan
at MBA at 7:30
P.M. tomorrow
(Friday, April
20).



Top: Patrick Harkleroad intercepts a high ball.

Left: This three-person slam dance broke two jaws, seven ribs, a nose, and an arm; but the players delayed treatment so they could finish the game. No, really!

Far left: John Bass dribble past two sluggish opponents.

(photos by Devraj Basu)

Wishing the best of luck
to the 1990 Varsity
Baseball team!

-a friend

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